

# NEWSIN brief

## Fatiha-i-Yazdaham today

BSS, Dhaka

Fatiha-i-Yazdaham will be observed across the country today.

Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh has chalked out an elaborate programme on the occasion, said a press release.

Fatiha-i-Yazdaham is observed on the eleventh day of the Islamic lunar month of Rabi-u-Sani, commemorating the death of Hazrat Abdul Qadir Jilani (R), a great Islamic scholar.

## US embassy closed on New Year's Day

CITY DESK

The US embassy will remain closed on New Year's Day (Monday).

The Consular Section and the American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the EducationUSA Student Advising Center will also remain closed on the day.

American citizens can call at 5566-2000 for emergency services.

## Body recovered in Bagerhat

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police recovered the body of a man in Amtala area beside Signboard Sharonkhola regional highway under Morrelgonj upazila in Bagerhat yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Sohag Khan, 32, son of Ishaq Khan of Boloibuniya village, said police. It was sent to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

## Maruf Muqtadir passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maruf Muqtadir, son of artist Abdul Muqtadir, passed away at Labaid Hospital in the capital yesterday morning. He was 35.

Maruf was suffering from acute renal failure associated with pancreatitis.

Having graduated from Brac University, Maruf joined Nilavo Technologies Ltd and worked there as a principal software engineer before his death.

He was the youngest among four sons and daughters of Abdul Muqtadir and Dilara Begum. Maruf left behind his wife Kazi Nadira Helen and their two-year-old son Mukto Muqtadir. He was buried in Azimpur graveyard.

## Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Prof Dr Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, the founder vice-chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul, said a press release.



BNP activists smash plastic chairs during a factional clash with their rivals on Victoria Road in Tangail district town yesterday. They also vandalised their own party office in the area. Tension had been brewing between the two groups for the last few days over formation of the new district unit committee of BNP. Yesterday, the unit was supposed to hold a workers' meeting where those who did not get posts in the new committee and those who resigned from the new committee later on allegedly launched the attack. On May 26, BNP's central committee formed its Tangail district unit with Shamsul Alam Tofa as president and Farhad Iqbal as general secretary.

PHOTO: STAR

# Gang trading on fake cancer, infertility drugs

## CID arrests three members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has arrested three persons for their involvement in importing fake cancer-fighting and infertility drugs from China.

Ruhul Amin alias Dulal Chowdhury, Nikhil Rajbangsi, and Md Sayeed were held in Tantibazar area in the capital in last two days.

Nikhil yesterday gave confessional statement before a magistrate. Meanwhile, a court fixed today for hearing on the remand prayers submitted by CID for the other two.

Sacks containing some 40,000 strips of medicines with labels of MTX, Clomid, and Revocon were seized from their storehouse in Tantibazar, said Molla Nazrul Islam, special superintendent of CID (organised crime), at a press briefing at its headquarters in Malibagh yesterday.

Counterfeit drugs are being manufac-

tured in China and some illegal syndicates are smuggling those into the country inside containers showing fake declaration of importing electronic equipment and with help of some customs officials, Molla said.

They supply the fake drugs to different pharmacies across the country by their distributors, the CID official said, adding that thus the syndicate had earned a hefty amount in last few years. During the drive, CID also seized Tk 3.64 lakh from them.

Such fake tablets are made of Calcium Chloride and the production cost for each strip is only Tk 12. But they sell it to their distributors for Tk 80 while consumers have to pay Tk 250 to 300 for each strip.

"We will send the pills to laboratory for further inspection," Molla added.

A case was filed under special power act against the three with Kotwali Police Station yesterday.

# Free eye camp for poor

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Faraaz Hossain Foundation in collaboration with Distressed Children and Infants International (DCI) of the USA and its Bangladesh chapter Rights and Sight for Children (RSC) organised the day-long camp.

The organisations will arrange more eye camps across the country with a mission to prevent childhood blindness.

The camp -- held in memory of late Prof Dr Syed A Wadud, a renowned Bangladeshi ophthalmologist and a goodwill ambassador of DCI -- was inaugurated by his son and director of Blindness Prevention Programme of DCI Dr Syed Wasim.

Since morning till the afternoon there were long queues of slum dwellers at the camp where the doctors treated nearly 250 eye patients.

Khadiza, 60 years of age, who lined up at the queue with complaints of burning sensation in her eyes, said, "I wasn't sure what to do with it [the problem]. Since eye treatments are expensive, I avoided seeing any doctors... But now volunteers

of this clinic came to give me free treatment for my eyes. Hope my eyes will get better now."

Jamal Abdun Nasher, programme manager of RSC, said they distributed free medicines, eye drops and eye glasses to the underprivileged.

Patients diagnosed with cataract and refractive errors will also be provided surgery and eyeglasses free of cost, he added.

Remembering Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, who was among the 20 hostages killed during the 12-hour long Gulshan cafe siege on July 1 in 2016, Dr Syed Wasim said, "It's unbelievable that my nephew sacrificed his life for his friends. He is a pride of our country."

To keep his memory alive, the Faraaz Hossain Foundation will conduct philanthropic activities such as the free eye camp throughout the country, he also said. "People who are willing to work on the issue can also become a part of this camp".

# Two public examinations' results today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of two public examinations will be published today.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman will announce the results of Primary and Ebtedai (madrasa) Terminal Examinations for class-V students at a press conference at 1:00pm at his secretariat office in the capital.

On the other hand, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will brief the media on the results of

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Vehicles have headlights on while plying Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar as dense fog blankets the area yesterday morning. The weather however cleared later in the day. The photo was taken around 8:30am. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Demand rings louder for MPO

FROM PAGE 3

teachers are working without any pay, some for more than a decade.

This is because the institutions do not have the ability to pay the teachers while the government stopped bringing these institutions under its payroll for what they said due to a fund crunch.

After a suspension of six years by the then BNP-led alliance government, the Awami League-led government revived the MPO

facility in 2010 as per its electoral pledge, enlisting 1,624 private secondary and higher secondary schools and colleges in the MPO scheme.

The rest of the non-MPO teachers have been organising various protest programmes since then.

Currently, more than four lakh teachers and employees of more than 26,340 secondary schools, colleges, madrasas and technical institutes are receiving MPO facilities.

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# International conference on biotechnology starts at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day "International Conference on Biotechnology in Health and Agriculture (ISBHA 2017)" began at Dhaka University's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban yesterday.

Global Network of Bangladeshi Biotechnologists (GNOBB) has organised the conference for the third time to promote the translational nature of modern biomedical, pharmaceutical and agricultural research as well as the latest trends of soft skills in biotechnology.

Inaugurating yesterday's session, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman hoped that the conference would feature recent findings from

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# Export rises, remittance

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The RMMRU report says 35 complaints were filed by deceived migrant workers through online and at the BMET between April and December. However, not a single complaint ended with any solution so far.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The report further says aspirant migrant workers at remote areas largely depend on middlemen for their migration process and also maintain monetary transaction through the middlemen.

As the middlemen are not under the purview of any legal framework, they can escape legal obligations. It recommended bringing them under a "regular framework".

It also mentions irregular migration of Bangladeshis remained a big challenge this year.

RMMRU in the report also lauded BMET for taking initiative to decentralise its service for migrant workers.

It recommended that the government recruit sufficient employees at district manpower offices and enhance their training for a successful decentralisation process.

Migration of Rohingyas from neighbouring Myanmar was also a big challenge this year, the report mentions.

# Bumpy ride for SI

FROM PAGE 5

Nasir's two brothers in this regard, he added.

Wahab Miah, additional deputy commissioner (media) of SMP, said, "We are looking into it and legal action will be taken against the sub-inspector, if he is found guilty."

Contacted, Maruf Ahmed told this correspondent yesterday that police should take strict measures and unearth the perpetrators behind the "syndicate".